

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT

SUBJECT Ministry for Heavy Industry: Pit Coal Imports

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. On 16 August 1955, the East German Ministry for Heavy Industry informed the Ministry for Foreign Trade that the amount of pit coal (Steinkohle) arriving in East Germany under the import program was falling far below the planned level and also considerably below the amount imported during the second quarter of 1955. The following table was submitted:

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(All figures are in thousands of tons)

Coal	Planned Imports 3rd Qtr.	Already Delivered 2nd Qtr	Sale- gitter Supply +	New Plan Quota	1 July - 15 August 1955			
					Plan Quota	Actual Imports	Deficit	Fulfillment %
Bituminous	705	-	-	705	352.5	351.1	1.4	99.6
Gas steam (raw & rough)	650	- 50	+ 15	615	307.5	291.2	88.3	71.3
Gas steam, medium	100	- 25	+ 30	105	52.5	18.1	34.4	34.5
Gas steam, high grade	260	- 70	-	190	95.	66.1	28.9	69.6
	1,715	-145	+ 45	1,615	807.5	654.5	153.	81.

2. According to the Ministry for Heavy Industry, some varieties of coal such as gas steam coal, medium (Gasflamm-Mittelkohle) and fine-grade gas steam coal (Gasflamm-Feinkohle) did not arrive at all for extended periods of time. Under the circumstances, the marketing organs of the Ministry were forced during August to supply the Reichsbahn with lignite briquettes in excess of plan to make up for the shortages of pit coal (run of mine - Grob- und Foerderkohle).

3. The Ministry for Foreign and Domestic Trade was also informed that the metallurgical industry could not handle the haphazard and nonscheduled deliveries of imported coke without incurring extraordinary expenses. In one case cited, Czechoslovakia delivered 6,758 tons of coke to the East German border (on 4 August 1955) instead of the planned 2,150 tons. Similar incidents happened with coke from the Donetsk area.

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4. On the other hand, the quantity of foundry coke (Giesereihoke) arriving from Czechoslovakia was far from adequate. The 11,500 tons which Czechoslovakia had agreed to deliver in August 1955 were not sufficient for the Ministry for Heavy Industry's requirements and therefore Salzgitter coal over 80 mm in dimensions had to be supplied to the foundries as a partial stopgap measure. To complicate the difficulties, out of the promised 11,500 tons, Czechoslovakia had by 15 August 1955 delivered only 351.1 tons of foundry coke over 90 mm in dimensions (that is, full value foundry coke), and 4,509 tons of the so-called foundry lump coke (Stueckhoke), 60 - 90 mm in dimensions.

5. In view of the situation, the Ministry for Foreign and Domestic Trade was asked to exert its efforts to increase the deliveries of foundry coke over 90 mm in dimensions, and also to increase deliveries of metallurgical coke in general.

1. Comment. It had been agreed that 2,150 metric tons per day would be delivered.

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